



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**Hon. Harry J. Tutunjian**  
[mavorsoffice@troyny.gov](mailto:mavorsoffice@troyny.gov)

**518.270.4401**  
**fax 518.270.4609**  
**[www.troyny.gov](http://www.troyny.gov)**

## **City Unveils Wireless Mesh Network Throughout Downtown**

For Immediate Release  
Contact Jeff Buell- 270-4554

(August 2, 2007- TROY)- Mayor Harry J Tutunjian joined with Cornerstone Telephone, WiFiFee, Prime Properties, and First Columbia Thursday to unveil a new wireless mesh network in Downtown, the first of its kind in the area.

Speaking from the roof of the Hedley Park Place, Tutunjian commented that the wireless mesh network was another example of Troy situating itself as a wonderful place to live, work and visit in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

“This is another positive step towards creating a unique and positive environment in the City of Troy,” Tutunjian said. “Whether it’s providing residents with amenities or businesses with incentives, we continue to do all that we can to bring people to the City of Troy. Through the combined effort of many people this is the latest step in our goal to make Troy a 21<sup>st</sup> century destination.”

A mesh network is a co-operative infrastructure of individual wireless transceivers (a wireless mesh) that have Ethernet capabilities. Businesses in Troy have banded together to install antennas on their buildings that are now networked together so that if one network goes down, another network can pick up the signal and essentially heal itself.

The following buildings participated in the project, allowing downtown from the riverfront east to be covered with wireless access:

- The Police Station
- The Fire Station
- Hedley Park Place
- Flanigan Square
- The Atrium
- Rivers Edge Apartments (Green Island)

Tutunjian praised all of the parties involved with the mesh network Thursday, saying that this project was fully funded by the City of Troy and private businesses that have made the effort to keep functionality over profits as motivation.

“We are blessed to have companies like Cornerstone and WiFiFee that not only believe that wireless access is integral for the future successes of our city, but are also willing to deliver a product that meets our needs across

the board,” Tutunjian said. “The partnership the City has formed with these companies, and those who allow access to their buildings, will be a great benefit down the road.”

The benefits of the mesh network are innumerable according to Cornerstone co-founder and CEO Dan Yamin, who pointed to last month’s power outage when announcing that should power be cut off in the future the buildings with a WiFiFee mesh unit installed, as well as users with laptops and other wireless devices, would still be able to communicate with others as the mesh network is hooked up to generators on several of the buildings.

"This addition to the wireless network that we implemented last year is a big step in increasing wireless technology in the City of Troy," Yamin said. "Downtown businesses and visitors will have better access and less interruptions, even in the event of a power outage."

WiFiFee CEO Brian Epstein said that the collaboration between businesses and government in Troy would continue to look for additional participants that will strengthen the signals in Troy. As of today, the network covers most of the downtown, but there is room for expansion.

"We all believe that wireless access is good for the City," Epstein said. "We encourage other commercial and residential real estate owners to join our efforts by offering wireless Internet and voice services to their residents as well."

Tutunjian said Thursday that the importance of the new mesh network should not be overlooked. He pointed to the recently announced Sematech as an example of changing conditions of the Capital District, and the need to make sure Troy is ready to capitalize.

“All too often in the past, people have sold the City of Troy short,” Tutunjian said. “We would wait to see how an event played out before becoming involved. We can no longer do that. We must position ourselves to be ready for an influx of new people. We want them to live here. To work here. To visit here.”

“To accomplish that,” he added, “we need to be ready. This network is just one of the many steps we can make to ensure we are ready to welcome new people to our City.”

Last year, the City of Troy announced a partnership with Cornerstone and WiFiFee to provide wireless access to the riverfront. Thursday’s announcement strengthens that signal, which will continue. Visitors to Troy may access the Internet from their laptop as often as they want for Free by simply connecting to WiFiFree and agreeing to watch a short video advertisement every two hours.

Users that want faster access without commercials would connect to WiFiFee and simply pay on the spot with their credit card for this premium service. “Offering both the Free and the Paid Premium wireless option is the future of wireless cities” said Epstein. “By selling short video ads to local businesses, we can now afford to provide free quality Internet to anyone looking for access on the same mesh that’s capable of providing voice-grade Wireless to our paying customers.”